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*Therapeutics of the Circulation.* By Sir LAUDER BRUNTON, F. R. S., etc. Published under the Auspices of the University of London. With 240 illustrations. Philadelphia, P. Blakiston's Son & Co. 1908. pp. xi., 280. Price \$1.50.

This book consists of eight lectures, which were delivered in January, February and March, 1905, in the Physiological Laboratory of the University of London. The distinguished author has set forth, with great originality and with unusual wealth of experimental detail, though (as he himself admits) not in strict systematic order, the physiology, pathology, pharmacology and treatment of the circulation and its disorders. He devotes special attention to such subjects as the self-massage of the heart and vessels, and the conduction of stimuli to the heart, which are dealt with only briefly, if at all, in ordinary text-books.

The numerous illustration are in general clear and well-printed; a few, of which the cut of Mosso's ergograph (Fig. 166, p. 137) is a conspicuous example, are printed from worn plates and should have been redrawn. Most of the apparatus figured is familiar to experimental psychologists, and some of it exists in more accurate form than is here shown.

A series of appendices by the author deals with certain functions of protoplasm, with recent instruments for measuring the blood-pressure in man, and with exercise in angina pectoris. A final appendix contains a number of notes by Professor Hugo Kronecker (to whom the lectures are dedicated) relating to his own work and that of his pupils on the heart.

The volume is admirably indexed. Besides an analytical subject-index of 34 pages, there are a special index of 4 pages to the appendices, a classified list of illustrations according to subjects, and a list of illustration in numerical order.

TH. WALTERS.

*The People at Play.* By ROLLIN LYNDE HARTT. Boston and New York, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1909. pp. ix., 317. Price, \$1.50.

This is, as the publishers' announcement declares, "a volume of delightful reading," and it is delightfully illustrated by the author, in a frankly amateur fashion. Whether the book is to be considered, in the words of the same announcement, as "a contribution to sociology" depends upon one's ideas of that rather elusive discipline. Mr. Hartt himself prefers ethics. "As regards the spirit we take with us, it is that of comparative ethics. In the seventeen years the author has known the people at play, he has learned, he trusts, to discern their worth. They differ from you, good reader, less in character than in intelligence. No one will deny that some measure of evil attends their amusements, but are our own invariably without stain? Before reforming the lowly, let us reform ourselves. And before berating their shortcomings, let us inquire whether the charitable attitude is not, on the whole, more scientific as well as more just. It has been the author's purpose to maintain throughout these pages a fairness and a sympathetic considerateness that may perchance lead his readers toward a more genial regard for their humble fellow creatures." The purpose has been very successfully attained in a series of chapters on the Home of Burlesque, the Amusement Park, the Dime Museum, the World in Motion, Melodrama, Society, the Muses in the Back Street, and the National Game.

As a sample of the writer's genial philosophizing, we quote the conclusion of the chapter on burlesque. "Beyond question, it fosters hope. Next week a new army of mendacious posters will lure the same silly fellows back to the same silly booby-trap. . . . Also it

fosters temperance and honesty; temperance because, since the Folly does n't sell drinks, . . . it becomes a citadel of refuge for inebrates, who can't go out between the acts, as no entr'-acts are provided; honesty because it pens up a herd of sneak-thieves and pick-pockets for two hours and a half at a stretch. Moreover, it elevates industry and even prevents loss of life. What, think you, would happen to the trades, were those clowns and men-singers allowed a hand in them? What to the art of cookery, were the "40 La Belle Parisiennes 40" restored to the kitchen? . . . But I sometimes suspect the institution affords more profit to the world outside it than to the world within. It enables the belligerently ethical to dog it with hired detectives (whereby they obtain much growth in grace), and it grants the sociological prowler a most fruitful opportunity for eavesdropping at the Underworld's confessional." W. JENKINS.

*The Fragments of Empedocles.* Translated into English Verse by WILLIAM ELLERY LEONARD, Ph. D. Chicago, Open Court Publishing Co. 1908. pp. viii., 92.

An introduction, treating of Empedocles the man, the philosopher, and the poet, is followed by a bibliography, and this again by the collected fragments ('On Nature' and 'The Purifications'), given both in the original Greek and in verse translation (unrhymed iambic pentameter), after which comes a final section of Notes. The translator has had the critical assistance of Professor Newbold and of Professor McGilvary. Many of his renderings are very happy. In some cases, however, as in the simile of the water-clock preserved in Aristotle's tract *On Respiration*, a poetical version is out of the question, and should not be attempted.

The volume is attractively printed. We have noticed no errors, except that on page 81 'cyclops' is used as a plural. W. JENKINS.